SEBI has initiated steps to amend the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1993. The suggested measures will improve working of the mutural funds and give a greater degree of freedom to the Fund managers within a well-regulated frame-work as well as increase the level of investor protection.

Passenger facilities at Imphal Airport

903. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is immediate need to improve the passenger facilities available at the Imphal Airport; and

(b) the steps taken for introduction of night landing facilities at this airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir. The existing terminal is proposed to be extended and modified at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.79 crores.

(b) Night Landing facilities already exist at the Imphal airpot.

Work load of Indian Pilots

904. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Pilots are getting tired because of over burdening of the work load; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to avoid the over burdening of the work load and to ensure efficient functioning of our pilots?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Flight and Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) for pilots as laid down by DGCA, are adhered to by the Indian operators.

Contesting of election by non-serious and criminal candidates

905. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of non-serious and criminal candidates are contesting the elections which is a great harm to the democratic system and the body polity;

(b) whether Government propose to amend the Representation of the People Act for preventing non-serious candidates and the candidates having a criminal background from contesting the elections as was suggested by the Chief Election Commissioner; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPTT. AND DEPTT. OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) Any person who is convicted for any offence mentioned in section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 gets disqualified for such periods as are mentioned in that section. In the recently held elections, a large number of independent candidates, however, had contested the elections from certain constituencies. Various measures to discourage non-serious candidates from contesting elections have been under consideration of the Government. A final decision in the matter is likely to be taken shortly.

राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों को गैर-सरकारी तथा विदेशी बैंककारी संस्थान से प्रतिस्पर्द्धा करने के निदेश

906. **श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:**
श्री नागमणि:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों को गैर-सरकारी और विदेशी बैंककारी संस्थान से समान नियमों और शर्तों पर प्रतिस्पर्द्धा करने का निदेश देने का विचार रखती है;